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keyless remote, CD player, 28,000 miles

2000 FORD ESCORT only 24,000 miles - \$145 mo.



2000 CAVALIER COUPE - 26,000 miles - \$149 per month



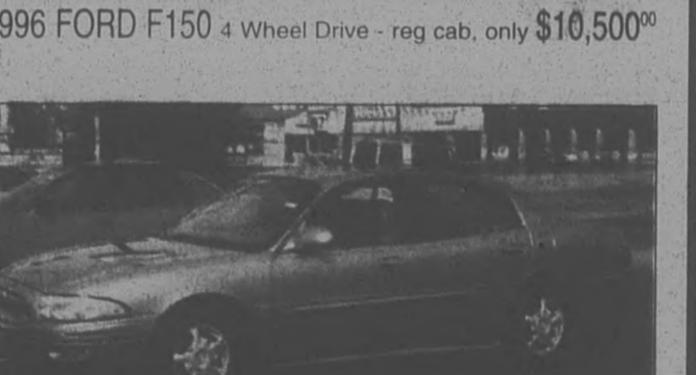
1996 FORD F150 4 Wheel Drive - reg cab, only \$10,500



1999 CHEVROLET TAHOE LT - loaded with leather seats



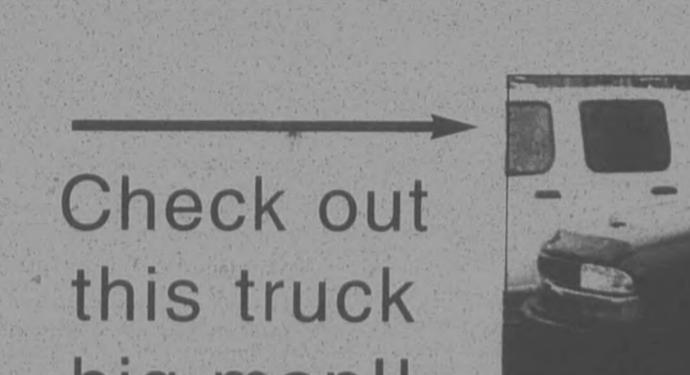
1997 CROWN VICTORIA loaded w/leather - locally owned



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1999 CHEVROLET LUMINA - local trade - \$8,995



2000 CHEVROLET S10 LS 30,000 miles - \$149.00 per month

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this truck
big man!!



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1994 TAURUS WAGON Extra Clean, Hard to find \$5,500

1999 MERCURY SABLE - only \$195⁰⁰ per month

WE WANT TO SELL THESE VEHICLES . . . AND WE WOULD
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Janice Moore
named 2002
Rattlesnake
Rodeo Queen

INSIDE
Emma Leigh
Elizabeth Curtis
born Jan. 4th

INSIDE
Ian Farley
completes
basic military
training

The Elba Clipper

Volume 105, Number 36 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, February 21, 2002 1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Elba Police continue investigation of mobile home fires

by Linda Hodge, Editor

On Thursday, Feb. 14, the Elba Police Department announced the arrest of a juvenile suspect in regards to a mobile home fire which occurred late Tuesday night, Feb. 12.

The 14-year-old male juvenile was taken into custody after an investigation led officers to believe he had started the fire which caused moderate damage to a mobile home located in Lot 1 at the Brumson Trailer Court on Davis Street in Elba. According to police, the suspect was a resident of the mobile home.

Elba Police Chief R.W. "Ronnie" Whitworth said the juvenile was later charged with 1st Degree Arson - burning of an occupied dwelling. He was transported to the Juvenile Division Center in Dothan.

At this time, Whitworth said an investigation is continuing to determine the cause of another mobile home fire which occurred Thursday evening, Feb. 7. In this incident, the mobile home was unoccupied. It was completely destroyed by the fire.

As the Elba Police Department continues its investigation of the two separate fires, officers are trying to determine if the incidents are related since the homes were located to one another.

Anyone with information pertaining to either incident is asked to call the Elba Police Department at 897-2555.

Worthless check round-up set for Tuesday, Feb. 26

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The District Attorney's office for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit announced its plans this week for the upcoming worthless check round-up to be held in Coffee County.

Mark E. Fuller, District Attorney for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, said the worthless check round-up will be held Tuesday, Feb. 26, in both counties; however, potential defendants can take care of this matter beforehand to avoid participation with the event.

According to Fuller, almost 6,200 worthless checks were turned over to his office during the calendar year 2001, and the worthless check unit of the district attorney's office had a collection rate of 81.6 percent.

Fuller said those considered as potential defendants for the worthless check round-up last Thursday evening, which will be held next week have received prior notice from the merchant and district attorney's office, an attempt to clear up the matter before it reaches the prosecutorial stage.

The worthless check round-up will be conducted by the Enterprise, Elba, Troy and Brundidge Police departments, the Coffee County and Pike County Sheriff's departments and investigators from the District Attorney's Office.

"I would like to thank all of these agencies for their help in assisting the merchants and citizens of Coffee and Pike counties," Fuller said.

Those arrested for writing a worthless check will be charged with a Class A Misdemeanor and can be sentenced to serve anywhere from zero days to one year in the county jail and/or

fined up to \$2,000. The defendant will also have to pay the court costs.

There are a lot of worthless checks written in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit and across the State of Alabama," said Eddie Pennington, chief investigator for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit.

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According to Fuller, almost 6,200

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Ferrin Cox

American athlete fulfills his Olympic dream thanks to an organ donor

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Sporting events have taken some weird turns lately. Oh, most folks have heard about the Winter Olympic pairs figure skating mess, but there are others. Olympic speed skating (for men) was won for the first time ever by an Australian, all those ahead of him crashed together and fell. Second place was won by an American who stuck his foot out and over the finish line, while still lying in the pile up of skaters. That brings us to the Daytona 500 car race Sunday afternoon. Again the winner was the winner because of a massive wreck just before the finish line . . . he wasn't close enough to be in the wreck and just breezed across the finish line first. Of course that was AFTER the rules had been changed two days earlier, slowing down the cars to prevent wrecks!

The election cycle is coming around again and fast. Challengers for the governor chair are making the rounds of forums. This week there were four of them at an event in Auburn, all with the answers to the world's problems! One candidate, US Representative Bob Riley, reminds listeners that he has never, even voted for a tax increase. Now that is conservative talk, but it is not something we would be proud of on our record. There are times when progress takes money. Of course an office holder can sit back and let others blaze the trail and take the flack from us taxpayers . . . that way he claims to be part of progress but still opposed to any new taxes. Not my kind of leader. Of course there is one candidate talking about all the contract letting graft in the present administration and how it would save that money and there would be no education proration. The one small detail he forgets to explain is that the contracts he is questioning have nothing to do with the education trust fund, even if the other parts of his statement had any truth at all in it. Alas, that is politics and each and every one of us must do our own research if we want to know the real truth in these matters.

We were amused (and puzzled) at a fax we received on February 13th from the Alabama Cattlemen's Association. It said that the four (4) leading candidates for governor would be blah, blah, blah. The news released named Bob Riley, Steve Windham, Tim James, and Charles Bishop. No mention was made of Governor Don Siegelman, who was an active (and leading) candidate the last we heard. Was that a carefree typo or a planted political statement by an organization known to take pride in their ability to strut pretty high in political king making circles. A couple of the above named candidates are polling in the single digits right now . . . is that a leading candidate? The last paragraph says the organization is "working to . . . inform the consumer." Their favorite candidate is their business, but the organization should be informing us about the benefits of eating beef, not trying to shape the upcoming governor's race especially with distortions, misstatements, etc.

Someone has taken a poll on which U.S. president "was the best." This year, as last year, it is Abe Lincoln. The top ten includes John Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Franklin Roosevelt and Bill Clinton. The new list places George W. Bush in third place, and he didn't even make the list last year. Looking at the times the various men on the list served as President, it seems that votes are based largely on the ones we know and remember best (of course with the exception of Honest Abe). Our feelings are a bit hurt that Harry Truman is not mentioned in the top ten. We remember him and his honest, straightforward talking. Our list goes back into history, with of course George Washington having to be mentioned. His learned opinions put us on the right track to making this a great country. Add in John Adams, add in . . . gosh how can anyone stop at a "top ten" in this category?

ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT

Elba General Hospital had the following patients admitted during the time period of February 11, 2002, through February 17, 2002. They were: Maureen Nelson, April McAlister, Kevin Brozofski, Robert Ammons, Nellie Harrelson, Durwood Grimes, John Williams, Christine Bradley, Annie Esposito, Mary Askew, Murray Barnes, James Harris, James Goodson, Karin Snellgrove, Annie Ellis, Vivian Sapp, Wendy Hanson, Wanda Messick, Wade McWaters, Alberta Martin, Ollie Hussey, Taylor Johnson, Barbara Pruitt, Betty Goodwin, Evelyn Knots, Emmitt Watson, Tracey Hulgan, Sonja Martinez, Angela Bullard, Joe Prescott, Landra Caldwell, Margaret Watkins, Carol Harbuck and Ozella Head.

Persons discharged during the same time period were: Mary Jackson, Douglas Shiver, Velma Griffis, Margaret Watkins, Shirley Thompson, April Skipper, Malcolm Taylor, Wayne Flowers, Robert Holliman, Allie Nelson, Karen Hobbs, Kevin Brozofski, Annie Esposito, April McAlister, Karin Snellgrove, Annie Bell, Nellie Harrelson, Gertrude Ennis, Annette Branson, Wendy Barnes, James Harris Jr., Betty Goodwin, Barbara Pruitt, Christine Bradley, Nancy Paul, Durwood Grimes, Wendy Hanson, Ollie Hussey, Annie Ellis, Taylor Johnson, James Goodson, Vivian Sapp, Tracey Hulgan and Emmitt Watson.

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Heddy J. Cox • BUSINESS MANAGER

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$17 per year

6 Months - \$9, including city & state tax

Alabama Counties - \$19 per year - including tax

6 months - \$10

Outside Alabama - \$21 per year - 6 months - \$11

BULLETIN BOARD

SOCIAL SECURITY REP
Court House: 12-30-1:30. Call
1-800-772-1213

ROTARY CLUB - Tuesday @ Noon-Elba First Baptist Church

Fellowship Hall

ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN.
1st & 3rd Wed. at Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd & 4th

4th Monday - 6 p.m. City Hall

WATER & ELECTRIC - Tuesday

following 2nd Monday @ City Hall

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - every

Monday - 6:30 p.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall on W Davis St. Maggie Garrett Classroom

COFFEE COUNTY COMMIS-
SION - 2nd & 4th Monday -

Community Room - Farm Center

Complex - New Brockton

LIONS CLUB - 2nd & 4th Tues -

8 p.m. - Seminary Hall

ELBA HIGH SCHOOL BOARD -

1st Thur - 5:30 p.m. - Supt. Office

AMERICAN LEGION - 1st Thur -

7:30 p.m. Legion Hall, 11th Hwy.

ELBA MONROE LODGE - 1st &

3rd Monday of each month 7 p.m.

BAND BOOSTERS - 1st Mon. - 7

p.m. Band Room @ Elba High School

YERKANS - 1st & 3rd

OFFICER - Mon-Fri - 8-12 noon &

12:30 - 4:30 p.m. New Brockton @ Farm

Complex 94-5858

COFFEE COUNTY COON

HUNTERS ASSN - 1st Sat - 3 p.m.

Club House

COFFEE REPUBLICAN

WOMEN - 1st Wed. Noon Colony

Inn, Enterprise

AARP meets every 3rd Tuesday

of the month

CIVIL AIR PATROL - Every

Sunday 7 p.m. - Elba Airport - Duson

hangar

ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB - 1st &

3rd Monday - 7 p.m. - Elba High boys

soccer team

6 months - \$10

Outside Alabama - \$21 per year - 6 months - \$11

begun for the generosity of others. Approximately 18 months ago, he had a life-saving liver transplant.

During the years, I have watched the Olympics, both summer and winter, and keenly listened as the commentators brought the stories of the athletes to the viewers. I have always enjoyed learning about the athletes and understanding the many adversities they have overcome.

Chris Klug, the United States competitor, last week, at the XIX Winter Olympics had it not been for the organ donor and his family.

Before receiving his liver transplant, Klug's health was failing and he could barely keep enough energy to walk up a hill of snow which meant trudging down it. This was his last race.

In my book, the story of Chris Klug is a true great Olympic story that proves there are heroes to be found on every path we walk and every corner we turn.

Chris Klug is a true great Olympic hero at the XIX Winter Olympics because he never gave up on his dream.

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CHURCH & AREA NEWS

Vanderbilt Holiness Church to host gospel singing February 23

Vanderbilt Holiness Church will have a gospel singing this Saturday, February 23rd, beginning 6:00 p.m. The featured group will be "The Smith Family" from the Perdue Farms/Southland.

Gospel singing planned at Country Cathedral for February 24

Gospel in Song presents on highway 84 East in Opp. Joyful Noise and the New Covenant Singers, in concert Sunday, February 24th at Country Cathedral Church, Opp. AL. The church is located 7413.

Annual C.C. Cancer Society Relay For Life Kickoff party is Thursday, February 21

The 10th Annual American Cancer Society Coffee County Relay for Life Kickoff party is Thursday, February 21, 6:30 p.m. at the Enterprise Civic Center. If you would like to have a team this year, please attend this meeting.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT?

A Service of the Elba Church of Christ

Will the majority enter heaven?

M.S. Elba There is no greater expert with any greater amount of authority dealing with the subject of "who will go to heaven" to us in the word of God the answer, which Jesus gives to the question under consideration this week. He said: "Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). Many groups mock and scorn at anything the Lord teaches, but still the majority, especially in this part of the country, when asked the question "are you going to heaven" will answer "yes". However, Jesus says the majority will not go to heaven.

It is not because Jesus does not want the majority to go to heaven, that they will not be able to go, for God wants all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2: 3-4). Why will not the majority go to heaven, even though the majority claims to be going to heaven? Jesus said: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23). Even though the majority claims to be saved, they do not do the will of the Father in heaven. Therefore, the way of the majority is not the way of the Lord (John 14:6).

There are so many religious organizations, which claim to be following Jesus, for a person to choose from to join. But, as indicated by our Lord not all of these groups will go to heaven. There is only one group that a person can be a member of and be able to go to heaven. We cannot join this organization, but we must be added to it, for the Lord adds to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:47). The majority have the opportunity, but they choose not to be saved.

—Jimmy Simmons

If you would like to submit a question for consideration to be used in this column, please send it to: "Questions and Answers" c/o Elba Church of Christ, P.O. Box 269, Elba, AL 36323. We invite everyone to attend the services of the Elba Church of Christ. Please call 297-2052 for times of services.

NOTICE!

Telephone Bills may be paid by Cash, Check or Money Orders at the GOOD SAMARITAN HELPING HAND STORE

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334-4516. Store

Monday thru Friday 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Manager

Mary E. Harris

Deadline For Church News Is MONDAY

MaChis Lower Creek Indian Tribe of Alabama to meet February 24

MaChis Lower Creek Indian Tribe of Alabama will have a meeting on Sunday, February 24, 2002 at the Tribal Learning Center, 104 East McKinnon, New Brockton at 2:00 p.m. CST. The purpose of this meeting is the discussion of Law suit retainers, Grants Department of Labor, ANA, Updates, bring in scholarship information. Members only. Bring a chair. For more information call or write Cliff Penning Wright or Nancy Carney, 708 South John Street, New Brockton, Alabama 36351. Telephone or fax (334)894-6578. Email: creeks@entercomp.com

Church Directory

IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN

BERNARD STRICKLAND, Pastor

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.

Even. Service 6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Sam Totten, Pastor

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.

Even. Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Darryl Caldwell, Pastor

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.

Even. Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

Darryl Caldwell, Pastor

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.

Even. Service 6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Eldie Phillips-Copes, Pastor

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.

Even. Service 6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

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Tiger Tales



Editor:
Katie Grimes

Gavin Mauldin receives award



by Brittany Daniels

Elba High School senior Gavin Mauldin was recently announced as the Area 2 Bryant-Jordan award winner. This award is given on the basis of athletic accomplishments, scholastic achievements, leadership abilities and community roles. The Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and the Alabama High School Athletic Association sponsor this program and rewards seniors based on academic and athletic achievements.

Gavin is a very active senior in his school. He starts at tackle for the Elba High Football Team. He is involved in many clubs and serves as an EHS Ambassador. Gavin volunteers for many organizations and always tries to serve his community.

It's an honor, and I'm very proud to receive this award," said Gavin when asked about his feelings on receiving the award.

Elba High band members dance the night away

by Gavin Mauldin

On Saturday, February 9, the Elba High School Band held its 51st annual Band Dance.

This year's theme was "Down on the Farm." It was a night of fun and enjoyment as the band members and their dates converged together for a night to be together and have fun. The dance featured DJ Jerry Broadway from radio station Country 96.9, and the spunkies as everyone danced.

Senior band members were recognized during the lead-out for their many years of dedication to the band. Everyone had a wonderful time and returned home safely.

Co-Op Spotlight

by Hunter Branch



This week's Co-Op Spotlight is Sara Purvis.

Sara is 17-years-old. She is in the 12th grade and is the daughter of Mitch and Joyce Purvis. She is employed at Dr. Strong and Purvis optometrist office where she does general office work.

Her hobbies and avilities include varsity cheerleader, VICA and St. Rita.

After graduation, Sara plans to attend Troy State University.

CITY OF ELBA QUALITY WATER REPORT

We are pleased to present to you this year's annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we continually make to improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is Clayton Aquifer and we have four wells that we use to draw our water.

"I am pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets federal and state requirements," said Mayor James Grimes. If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Mr. Dennis Coleman at 334-897-2160. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Monday of every month following the Elba City Council meeting which is held at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall.

The Water Department routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State Laws. The table below shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2001. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, maybe reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we have also provided you with definitions.

NON-DETECTS (ND) - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

PARTS PER MILLION (ppm) or MILLIGRAMS PER LITER - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in two years, or a single penny in \$ 10,000.

NEPHELOMETRIC TURBIDITY UNIT (NTU) - Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

TREATMENT TECHNIQUE (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL GOAL (MCLG) - The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

At high levels, primary contaminants are known to pose a health risk to humans. This table provides a quick glance of any primary contaminant detections.

DEFINITIONS

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SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

One would think that having two daughters that can share some of their clothes would be a plus, and while it does help Dad's check-book at times, at other times I am not sure if it is worth the fuss and all the noise. It seems like whenever one of the girls gets dressed she wears what the other one wanted, or that one wants to wear something that the other one borrowed the day before and forgot to wash. My solution? Turn up the television and shut the door!

DUSTING OFF THE DESK...

** The Kinston Bulldogs and Kinston Lady Bulldogs were the final area teams to hang up their sneakers last week as both lost in the area finals and again in sub-region action. The Bulldogs struggled late in the year after a fast start and then ran head first into two of the top teams around in G.W. Long and Pleasant Home, while the Lady Bulldogs battled hard for four quarters, but were simply outmatched in season-ending losses to G.W. Long and J.F. Shields.

Basketball is alive and well down in Kinston, and look for the girls and boys to be winners on the court for many years to come.

** The Elba Tigers have started baseball practice and it looks like it should be a good season for the Tigers with a strong will to play on into the 11th season. The Tigers will be after winning again, but will have to rely on junior sophomores to step up and lead the way.

However, these same players were on the field last season, and this year should have the experience needed to put the Tigers back on top in area 3A circles. With ten home games on the schedule, Elba fans will get plenty of chances to watch the Tigers win the bats.

** The Elba Lady Tigers have made the move to fast-pitch and after looking at their schedule I think the Lady Tigers should be able to hold their own with just about any team on their schedule.

Goshen is the only team on the schedule that played fast-pitch last season, while Daleville, Opp and Luverne are the only teams that are in Elba's class or above. It may not resemble the same fast-pitch game we have watched on TV, but it should be competitive and the Lady Tigers made a wise move in making the switch.

** The youth baseball season ended last week with the announcement of the various all-star teams, and after the announcements one parent wondered out loud what could be done to make the regular season teams more balanced. The player drafts are held after the coaches are chosen, and all the players are discussed so that the coaches are aware of the skills of the players. The coaches are then free to pick the players they want, and often times they pick players that are friends of their own children, which can result in weak teams. The teams all have the same number of players, based upon age, but still, some teams will be better than others.

More thought will go into the draft process before the baseball teams are chosen, and some changes could very well be made, the coaches will always get to pick the players they want, and some teams will be better than others.

** In October, the Miller family suffered a tragic loss last week when my younger brother Randy's wife - Janet, was killed in an automobile accident. Randy and Janet have three sons, and both have logged many miles watching their children play ball. The accident that took her life took place while she was driving to Mobile to watch their middle son play baseball at South Alabama, and took place on I-65, a road she had traveled many times in the past. The loss will always leave a void in the Miller family and the Leon Miller family. However, we were all lucky to have known her for the 33 years she was with us, and will never forget her as we get on with our lives.

Ready or not... BASEBALL & SOFTBALL SEASON IS HERE!!!

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Season opener set for March 4

Elba Tiger baseball teams are working hard

The Elba Tigers are hard at work in preparation for the upcoming high school baseball season, and Coach Wynn Grimes feels his young Tigers are ready to make yet another run at post-season play.

"We had a young team last season and are still very young," said Coach Grimes, "but the young players have very good experience and that should make for a better team. We don't have any stoppers on the mound or any hitters that will knock the ball out of the park very often. However, we do have some players that have grown up playing baseball and love the game. I think if we play solid on defense and get good pitching we will be able to score some runs, and maybe that will add up to some wins."

"This season will be the first time we have fielded a junior varsity team," added Coach Grimes, "and that will definitely help our program in years to come. In the past, seventh graders would have to compete against seniors to make the varsity team.

"We will still have one of the youngest teams around," hungry after last year's losing repeated Coach Grimes, "but season, and we are all looking this year we will be young and forward to taking the field."

To field fast-pitch softball teams

Elba Lady Tigers preparing for season openers

The Elba Lady Tigers established themselves as one of the top high school softball teams in the state over the past two seasons as they piled up a total of 86 wins, advanced to two straight sub-state finals and made a trip to the state tournament. With eight starters back from last year's 40-18 team, one would think another banner season would seem a certainty. However, this season the Lady Tigers have joined the move from slow-pitch to fast-pitch softball, and Coach Amelia Rhoades is hoping that the experience learned through years of playing softball will help the team make the switch.

"All of our girls have been playing softball since they were old enough to hold a bat," stated Coach Rhoades, "and even though we all know that fast-pitch softball is a very different game, it is still softball, and our players need to believe that they can make the switch and continue to be successful. We have eight starters back that played in a total of 58 games

last season, and they all know how to catch, stop and throw a softball. It may take a while for the hitting to come around, but these girls play to win every time they hit the field and that will be the case this year. We will not concede anything to any of our opponents and we will play to win."

"Our schedule includes only one team that played fast-pitch last season," added Coach Rhoades, "and that means we will all be in the same boat as we make the move to fast-pitch. If we can get good pitching and play solid on defense we should be able to play with anybody on our schedule, and I believe we might just surprise some people in both areas. Our junior varsity has also made the switch to fast-pitch, and that will provide immediate help in years to come. Every school in the state will play fast-pitch next season, and by going ahead and making the move this season, I believe we can get a jump on some of the area teams and get our program established a year early."

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City of Atmore, Alabama

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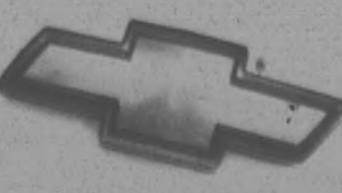
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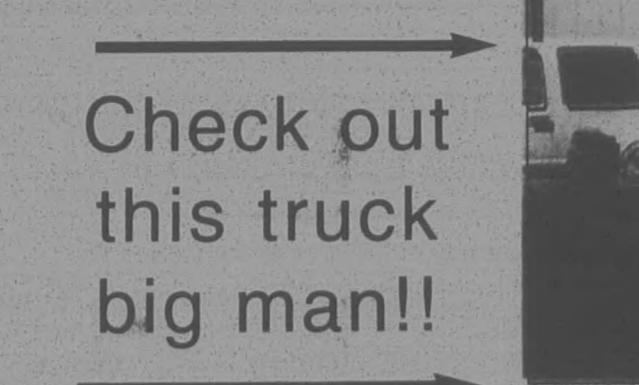
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The Elba Clipper

Volume 105, Number 37

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, February 28, 2002

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Coffee County Probate Judge responds to audit

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

A recently completed audit of the Coffee County Judge of Probate Office has come under some strong criticism from the news media and others. Probate Judge William Gammill sat down last week with this newspaper and reviewed the audit section-by-section.

Gammill has ruled that the money could be used for items not specifically forbidden by other laws.

He explained the findings of the auditors, what (and when) remedial actions have been taken and detailed the reasons for his disagreement over the pay back requested by the Department of

Examiners of Public Accounts.

During the hour-long meeting Gammill stressed the need for and his support for the auditors.

He added that he is actively working to get annual audits to replace the current every-three-year audits.

He explained that a problem could be three years old before found by the auditor and even older before he actually received the official audit report.

He repaid the auditor's findings.

Gammill said when discussing his official demand that he repay \$328.31 to the Judge's Discretionary Fund.

Whitworth said the victim received bodily harm during the incident, an approximately \$3,000 in cash and a Sony PlayStation was taken from his home.

However, he said the victim managed to recognize one of the suspects, and a warrant was signed for his arrest.

On Friday, Feb. 22, Whitworth said Otis Daniels of Elba was arrested by the Elba Police Department at 897-2555.

Whitworth said the investigation into this matter continues, and additional arrests are expected.

Anytime with information regarding this matter is encouraged to call the Elba Police Department at 897-2555.

Gammill said when discussing his official demand that he repay \$328.31 to the Judge's Discretionary Fund.

Gammill explained, and the audit confirmed, that the difference is over purchasing plaques for replacement, an out-of-state title replacement and food items for a retirement and Thanksgiving party (dinner).

According to the police report, the suspects entered the home after kicking in the door.

They were wearing bandanas and masks, and both had hand

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